



County of Los Angeles
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April 28, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**ASSEMBLY BILL 340 (FROMMER) – (ITEM NO. 33, AGENDA OF APRIL 29, 2003) --
PROBATION OFFICERS: SAFETY TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT**

Item No. 33 on the Board Agenda for April 29, 2003 is a CAO and Probation Department recommendation to oppose AB 340 (Frommer), which would require the County to train and arm Probation Officers who are assigned to a job-related hazardous activity. This matter was brought before your Board initially on April 8, 2003, and has been continued since then. A copy of the original Board letter is attached.

On April 22, 2003, the bill was amended to: 1) prohibit the County from disciplining or terminating a Probation Officer for refusing to participate in a duty-related hazardous activity unless the Probation Officer has been adequately trained, and 2) tie the definition of hazardous duty to activities performed in various programs such as gang units, housing project units, and multi-agency suppression programs including the Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) program as well as any activity that is substantially similar to those performed in the programs identified above.

According to the Probation Department, the amended version of AB 340 creates a greater burden on the Department because it would prevent the Department from disciplining an employee who refuses to perform assigned duties. For this reason, and those outlined in the April 8, 2003 Board Letter on AB 340, **the Probation Department continues to recommend an oppose position, and we concur.**

Each Supervisor

April 28, 2003

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AB 340 is sponsored by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 685 (Los Angeles Probation Officer's Union) and is supported by Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, Inc., Peace Officers Research Association of California, and the Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs. It is opposed by the Chief Probation Officers of California.

AB 340 is scheduled to be considered by the Assembly Public Safety Committee on April 29, 2003.

DEJ: GK

MAL:JF:JKL:ib

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Sheriff
 District Attorney
 Office of Independent Review